

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims

The following is a marked-up version of the claims with the language that is underlined ("____") being added and the language that contains strikethrough ("—") being deleted:

1. – 4 (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) A communication method comprising the steps of: comprising:

displaying a first instant messaging (IM) message;
calculating an elapsed time from the displaying of the first IM message;
determining whether a second IM message has been displayed within the elapsed time;

displaying a first time indication, the first time indication being associated with the first IM message, the first time indication being displayed in response to determining that the second IM message has not been displayed within the elapsed time, time, the first time indication displaying a time that the first message was sent.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the step of displaying the first IM message ~~comprises the step of:~~ comprises:

providing an IM dialogue box within an IM chat window; and
displaying the first IM message within the IM dialogue box.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein the step of displaying the first time indication ~~comprises the step of:~~ comprises:

displaying the first time indication in the IM dialogue box.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein ~~the step of displaying~~ the first time indication ~~comprises the step of:~~ comprises:

displaying a first visual delineator after the first IM message, the first visual delineator having a time associated with the first IM message.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, further ~~comprising the steps of:~~ comprising:

displaying a second IM message after the elapsed time;
displaying a second time indication, the second time indication being associated with the second IM message, the second time indication being indicative of the elapsed time between the first IM message and the second IM message.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein ~~the step of displaying~~ the second time indication ~~comprises the step of:~~ comprises:

displaying a second visual delineator before the second IM message, the second visual delineator having a time associated with the second IM message.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein ~~the step of displaying~~ the second visual delineator ~~comprises the step of:~~ comprises:

providing an IM dialogue box within an IM chat window; and
displaying the second visual delineator in the IM dialogue box.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, further ~~comprising the steps of:~~ comprising:

providing a status area within the IM chat window, the status area being distinct from the IM dialogue box; and

selectively displaying a most-recently-displayed IM time in the IM dialogue box, the most-recently-displayed IM time being associated with the most-recently-displayed IM

message.

13. – 19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium comprising:

a processor; and

a memory configured to store:

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to display a first instant messaging (IM) message;

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to calculate an elapsed time from the computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to display of the first IM message;

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to determine whether a second IM message has been displayed within the elapsed time;

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to display a first time indication, the first time indication being associated with the first IM message, the first time indication being displayed in response to computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to determine that the second IM message has not been displayed within the elapsed time. time, the first time indication displaying a time that the first message was sent.

21. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 20, the memory further comprising: configured to store:

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to provide an IM dialogue box within an IM chat window; and

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to display the first IM message within the IM dialogue box.

22. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 21, the memory further comprising: configured to store:
computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to display the first time indication in the IM dialogue box.

23. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 20 the memory further comprising: configured to store:
computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to display a first visual delineator after the first IM message, the first visual delineator having a time associated with the first IM message.

24. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 20, the memory further comprising: configured to store:
computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to display a second IM message after the elapsed time;
computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to display a second time indication, the second time indication being associated with the second IM message, the second time indication being indicative of the elapsed time between the first IM message and the second IM message.

25. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 24, the memory further comprising: configured to store:
computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to display a second visual delineator before the second IM message, the second visual delineator having a time associated with the second IM message.

26. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 25, the memory further comprising: configured to store:

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to provide an IM dialogue box within an IM chat window; and

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to display the second visual delineator in the IM dialogue box.

27. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 26, the memory further comprising: configured to store:

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to provide a status area within the IM chat window, the status area being distinct from the IM dialogue box; and

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to selectively display a most-recently-displayed IM time in the IM dialogue box, the most-recently-displayed IM time being associated with the most-recently-displayed IM message.

28. – 37. (Canceled)

38. (Currently Amended) A communication system comprising:
message-display logic configured to display a first instant messaging (IM) message;
time-calculation logic configured to calculate an elapsed time from the display of the first IM message;

determination logic configured to determine whether a second IM message has been displayed within the elapsed time;

time-display logic configured to display a first time indication, the first time indication being associated with the first IM message, the first time indication being displayed in response to determine that the second IM message has not been displayed within the elapsed time. time, the first time indication displaying the time the first message was sent.

39. – 43. (Canceled)